

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A method of obtaining knowledge about an enterprises data, comprising the steps of analysing business intelligence artefacts produced by users of an enterprises business intelligence system, producing metadata based on the analysis, and making the metadata available for access by users to query to provide information about the enterprises data.
5. 2. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step of analysing the business intelligence artefacts comprises, for each artefact, the steps of determining attributes of the artefact according to a list of attributes.
10. 3. A method in accordance with claim 2, wherein the list of attributes is a commonly applied list of attributes.
15. 4. A method in accordance with claim 2, wherein the step of producing metadata comprises, for each artefact, the step of preparing and storing attribute data on the attributes of the artefact determined by the analysis process.
20. 5. A method in accordance with claim 4, wherein the attribute data includes information on the attribute structure.
25. 6. A method in accordance with claim 4, wherein the attribute data includes information on the attribute values.
30. 7. A method in accordance with claim 4, wherein the attribute data includes information on operational characteristics of the artefact.
35. 8. A method in accordance with claim 7, wherein the operational characteristics include one or more of the identity of the user of the artefact, the time the artefact was used, the time it took to produce results from the use of the artefact, and the number of results which were produced by use of the artefact.
9. A method in accordance with claim 4, wherein the

attribute data includes information on one or more of the type of analysis applied, and the information within the scope of the artefact.

10. A method in accordance with claim 4, wherein the attribute data includes database data including information on any database tables accessed by application of the artefact.

11. A method in accordance with claim 4, wherein the attribute data includes business item data including information on any business items associated with the artefact.

12. A method in accordance with claim 11, wherein the business item data includes one or more of the following: table names; column names, renamed items; titles; axis names.

13. A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising the step of querying the metadata.

14. A method in accordance with claim 13, wherein the step of querying the metadata comprises the step of determining whether a query artefact attribute data is matched by attribute data associated with any artefact.

15. A method in accordance with claim 14, wherein the step of determining the match includes the step of determining the degree of the match.

20 16. A method in accordance with claim 13, wherein the step of querying the metadata comprises the step of determining the degree of usage of the enterprise's database by an artefact.

25 17. A method in accordance with claim 13, wherein the step of querying the metadata comprises the step of determining who is using or has used an artefact.

30 18. A method in accordance with claim 13, wherein the step of querying the metadata comprises the step of determining the area of usage of the enterprise's database by an artefact.

35 19. A method in accordance with claim 13, wherein the step of querying the metadata comprises the step of querying

the attribute data for business items.

20. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the metadata includes user annotation information relating to the business intelligence artefacts.

5 21. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein a business intelligence artefact includes one or more of: queries; analytical documents; spreadsheets; presentations.

10 22. A system for obtaining knowledge about an enterprise's data, comprising a harvester means for analysing business intelligence artefacts produced by users of an enterprise's business intelligence system and producing metadata based on the analysis.

15 23. A system in accordance with claim 22, wherein the harvester means is arranged to analyse the business intelligence artefacts by determining attributes of the artefact by applying a list of attributes to the artefact.

24. A system in accordance with claim 23, wherein the list of attributes is a common list of attributes.

20 25. A system in accordance with claim 23, wherein the harvester means is arranged to produce attribute data from the analysis of the attributes of the artefact.

26. A system in accordance with claim 25, wherein the attribute data includes information on the attribute structure.

25 27. A system in accordance with claim 25, wherein the attribute data includes information on the attribute values.

28. A system in accordance with claim 25, wherein the attribute data includes data on operational characteristics of the artefact.

30 29. A system in accordance with claim 28, wherein the operational characteristics include one or more of the following: the identity of the user of artefact; the time 35 that the artefact was used; the time it took to produce results from the use of the artefact; and the number of results which were produced by use of the artefact.

30. A system in accordance with claim 25, wherein the attribute data includes one or more of the type of analysis applied by the artefact and the information within the scope of the artefact.

5 31. A system in accordance with claim 25, wherein the attribute data includes database data including information on any database tables accessed by application of the artefact.

10 32. A system in accordance with claim 25, wherein the attribute data includes database data including information on any database tables accessed by application of the artefact.

15 33. A system in accordance with claim 32, the business item data includes one or more of the following: table names; column names; renamed items; titles; and axis names.

34. A system in accordance with claim 22, further comprising a query means arranged to enable querying of the metadata.

20 35. A system in accordance with claim 34, wherein the query means includes matching means, arranged to determine whether a query artefact attribute data is matched by attribute data associated with any artefact.

25 36. A system in accordance with claim 35, wherein the matching means is arranged to determine the degree of match.

30 37. A system in accordance with claim 34, wherein the query means includes usage determination means arranged to determine the degree of usage of the enterprise's database by an artefact.

38. A system in accordance with claim 33, wherein the query means includes user identification means arranged to identify who is using or has used an artefact.

35 39. A system in accordance with claim 33, wherein the query means further comprises database area determination means for determining the area of usage of the enterprise's database by an artefact.

40. A system in accordance with claim 33, wherein the query means is arranged to query the attribute data with business item data to locate artefacts including queried business items.

5 41. A system in accordance with claim 22, further including annotation means arranged to enable users to annotate information relating to the business intelligence artefacts, to the metadata.

